

Remarks

Applicants request a reconsideration of the present patent application in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1-12 and 21-27 are in the application.

Claims 1-9 and 11-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chak et al. ("Chak"), USPN 6,038,967 in view of Kalkunte USPN 5,963,560. Claim 10 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claim 1 requires the steps of 1) transmitting to a plurality of drive cards high-level commands across a local area network; 2) responding to the high-level commands by each of the plurality of drive cards following the expiration of said unique predetermined delay time; and 3) temporarily suspending communication over the local area network following response by the plurality of drive cards to the high-level commands. Chak discloses only a single drive card. Kalkunte does not teach or suggest that all of the drive cards respond after the transmission of a high-level command. Kalkunte states in lines 4-7 of column 6: "For example, after the priority has been established, as in FIG. 3d, assume that station A (which currently has the highest priority and therefore the shortest wait time) has a data packet to send." (Emphasis added.) Moreover, neither Chak nor Kalkunte teach or suggest that communication is temporarily suspended after a high-level command is sent and responded to.

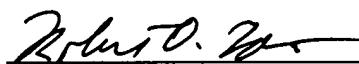
New independent claims 21 and 27 recite the storage of data packets in the drive card. Neither Chak nor Kalkunte teach or suggest the storage of data packets.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-12 and 21-27 are in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner feel that any unresolved issues remain in this case, the undersigned may be contacted at the telephone number listed below to arrange for an issue resolving conference.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert D. Lott
Reg. No. 28,441

JAECKLE FLEISCHMANN & MUGEL, L.L.P.
190 Linden Oaks
Rochester, New York 14625-2810
Tel: (585) 899-2930
Fax: (585) 899-2931